

UPDATE: MONTANA REP

FEBRUARY 2007 | MONTANA REPERTORY THEATRE | TOURING SINCE 1968

Montana Rep: Educating and Entertaining Through the Magic of Live Theatre

Thanks in great part to support from the Montana State Legislature, Montana Rep continues its mission of educating students and community members, entertaining theatregoers, and acquainting audiences throughout the state and across the nation with the quality of live theatre in Montana. In appreciation of your continuing assistance, we are pleased to take this opportunity to update you on our recent activities.

Our educational focus encompasses higher education, outreach to rural youth, and encouragement of emerging talent in Montana communities.

As the professional theatre in residence at The University of Montana, Montana Rep offers drama students unique opportunities to hone their craft as members of Montana Rep tours.

Montana Rep's National Tour presents classic American plays to audiences coast to coast. In addition, Rep performers offer accompanying comedy and drama workshops designed for audiences of high school to college-age students and their instructors.

Middle and high school students throughout Montana are served by our Educational Outreach Tour, which offers daytime performances and workshops for youth and evening performances for the entire community. Plays are carefully chosen and adapted to captivate the imaginations of our young audiences, helping to build a core of dedicated arts patrons for the future.

During the past decade, Montana Repertory Theatre has developed into one of the premier touring companies in the nation.

www.montanarep.org

MONTANA REP'S SEASON AT A GLANCE:

■ National Tour

Our four-month tour presents a classic from the American stage, accompanied by workshops and other educational opportunities. Our current touring production is Neil Simon's Tony Award-winning *Lost in Yonkers*.

■ Montana Educational Outreach Tour

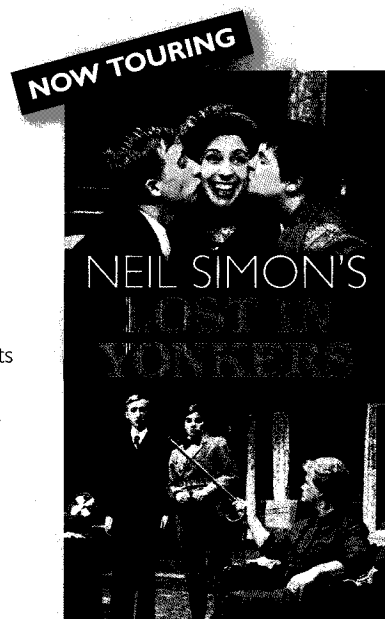
This statewide tour targets rural populations, cultivating and maintaining an appreciation of the arts, particularly among middle and high school students.

■ The Missoula Colony

Our week-long summer series of workshops and readings at The University of Montana showcases the work of both established and amateur playwrights.

■ Montana Rep Missoula:

Edgy new works and revitalized classics challenge, entertain, and embrace the community.



Left to right, top: Danny Luwe (Jay), Jordan Napoli (Bella), and Marie Fahlgren (Arty). Bottom: Danny Luwe, Marie Fahlgren, and Suzy Hunt (Grandma Kurnitz)

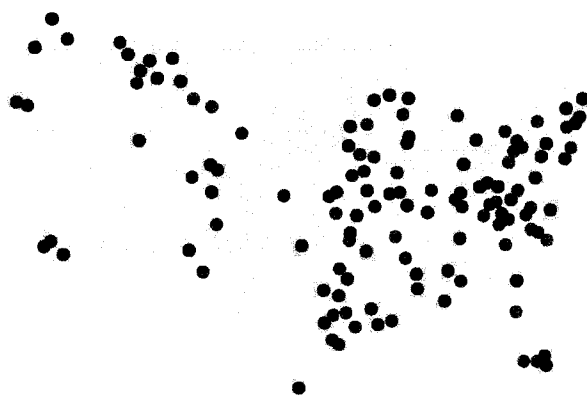
Thank you, thank you, thank you!

My students had an absolutely wonderful time. They were very impressed with the play, the acting, and the costumes.

One student told me that he had been questioning his decision to study drama next year as a high school freshman—but after the performance, he was convinced it would be fun and interesting."

(LOST IN YONKERS)

JULIANNA ENGH, teacher
Lolo Middle School, Lolo, Montana



● POPULATION BELOW 20,000

NATIONAL TOURS

MISSION

Montana Repertory Theatre tells the great stories of our nation to enlighten, develop, and celebrate the human spirit in an ever-expanding community.

In the last five years our National Tour has visited over 100 communities and has played more than 120 venues from coast to coast. Almost half of our national tour performances during that time have been presented in rural communities; sixteen venues were in towns with fewer than 6,000 residents. The smallest town we consistently play is Plains, Montana, with a population of 1,126.

As the professional theatre in residence at The University of Montana, Montana Rep offers drama students unique educational opportunities. The University of Montana is one of very few in the nation to house a professional touring company, and the only one that incorporates students and faculty into that company. As members of Montana Rep tours, students work alongside seasoned actors, directors, designers, and technical crew members, gaining experience that solely academic programs cannot offer.

Our National Tour performances and workshops are relevant to the communities we serve. For example, last year we staged *The Trip to Bountiful* in Galveston, Texas, a city ravaged by Hurricane Katrina. Audience members lingered for more than two hours, discussing the ways in which the play spoke to their recent tragedy. We were touched to realize the Rep had provided an outlet through which these people could express their emotions.

Almost half of the Rep's National Tour performances in the last five years were presented to audiences in rural communities (towns with populations under 20,000, as defined by HUD).

MONTANA

Billings
Bozeman
Butte
Dillon
Great Falls
Helena
Lewistown
Missoula
Plains

ALABAMA

Brewton
Opelika
Talladega

ARKANSAS

Alma
Blytheville
Conway
Fayetteville

CALIFORNIA

Cerritos
Glendora
Palm Desert

COLORADO

Avon
Colorado Springs
Fort Collins
Greeley

DELAWARE

Dover

FLORIDA

Belle Glade
Delray Beach
Orange Park
Palm Beach Gardens
Punta Gorda

GEORGIA

Savannah

ILLINOIS

Aurora
Carbondale
Elgin
Lebanon
Springfield

INDIANA

Jasper

IOWA

Ames
Decorah
Mason City
Mount Pleasant
Oskaloosa

KANSAS

Baldwin City
Hiys
Overland Park
Pittsburg

KENTUCKY

Ashland
Danville
Hopkinsville
Lexington
Somerset

LOUISIANA

Alexandria City
Baton Rouge
Lafayette

MARYLAND

Fredrick

MASSACHUSETTS

Springfield

MICHIGAN

Flint

MISSISSIPPI

Columbus
Meridian
Oxford

MISSOURI

Chillicothe
Columbia
Kirksville
Rolla
Saint Louis
Springfield

NEBRASKA

Chadron

NEW JERSEY

Morristown
Pomona

NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque
Alto
Raton

NEW YORK

Brooklyn
Kingston
Staten Island

NORTH CAROLINA

Boone
Elon College
Hamlet
Morganton
Pembroke
Rocky Mount
Supply
Taylorsville
Yanceville

OHIO

Elyria
Springfield

OKLAHOMA

Idabel
Oklahoma City

OREGON

Klamath Falls
Medford

PENNSYLVANIA

Indiana
Johnstown
Mansfield
Meadville
Uniontown
York

SOUTH CAROLINA

Newberry

TENNESSEE

Chattanooga
Jefferson City

TEXAS

College Station
Crockett
Galveston
Harlingen
Katy
Lufkin
Orange
Richardson
Texarkana
Tyler

UTAH

Logan

VIRGINIA

Blacksburg
Charlottesville
Covington
Richlands
Wise

WASHINGTON

Bellingham
Longview
Moses Lake

WISCONSIN

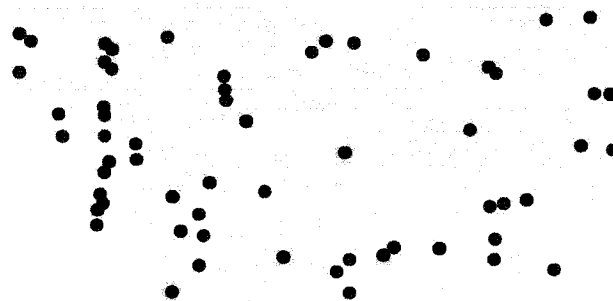
Eau Claire
Green Bay
Hartford
Wausau
Whitewater

WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston
Fairmont
Huntington

WYOMING

Gillette
Sheridan



● POPULATION BELOW 3,000

MONTANA TOURS

The Rep's Montana Educational Outreach tour serves more than 50 rural communities across the state, offering plays, workshops, and post-performance talkbacks with middle school, high school, and adult audience members.

A Collaborative Effort with Local Schools and Communities: We take special care when choosing the play for this tour, striving to captivate the imaginations of our young audiences and speak to issues they face in their lives. To that end we review school syllabi and district curricula; more importantly, we solicit suggestions from our community liaisons throughout the year.

Meeting Audience Needs: Often we find the best way to meet the needs of our audiences is to adapt a classic work of literature to speak more directly to contemporary issues.

Coordinating Funding and Organization: By developing and maintaining relationships with arts council members and librarians, we help rural communities work together to coordinate performances of our touring show. We often save communities money by facilitating contact between city librarians and school teachers and by suggesting ways to share funding and organization for our visit.

A Typical Rep Residency: Montana Rep's one-day residency in a rural community typically includes a daytime performance for youth, workshops for students, and an evening performance for the entire community. After each show, audiences are invited to ask questions about the production and about life in the theatre. Following the daytime performance, Rep actors present acting and writing workshops to groups of up to 35 students. Activities based on the play's themes and issues give students the opportunity to make a deeper connection between the play and their own lives.

Building Alternative School Relationships: We are currently seeking to build relationships with several alternative schools throughout the state. In the near future, we hope to add the following schools to our Educational Outreach Tour: LASER Alternative School, Kalispell; Project for Alternative Learning, Helena; Central Alternative School, Libby; Willard Alternative School, Missoula; Skyline Alternative School, Great Falls; Bridger Alternative School, Bozeman; and Abraham Lincoln Alternative School, Butte.

ABSAROOKEE

- Absarooke High School
- Absorkee Elementary School

ARLEE

- Arlee High School

BIGFORK

- Bigfork High School

BILLINGS

- Billings West High School
- Parmy Library
- Skyview High School

BOULDER

- Jefferson County High School

BOX ELDER

- Stone Child College

BRADY

- Brady Public School

BRADY/DUTTON

- Brady/Dutton Public School
- Conrad Library

BROADUS

- Broadus High School

BROWNING

- De LaSalle Blackfeet School

BUTTE

- Butte High School
- Glacier/Garfield Alternative School

CHARLO

- Charlo School

CHINOOK

- Chinook High School

COLSTRIP

- Colstrip High School

COLUMBIA FALLS

- Columbia Falls High School

COLUMBUS

- Columbus High School

CORVALLIS

- Corvallis Middle School

DARBY

- Darby High School
- Darby Junior High School

DEER LODGE

- Powell County High School

DILLON

- Dillon High School
- UM Western

DUTTON

- Dutton Public School

FORSYTHE

- Forsythe Community Center

GLASGOW

- Glasgow High School

GLENDIVE

- Dawson Community College

GREAT FALLS

- Great Falls High School
- Great Falls Public Library
- Skyline Alternative School

HAMILTON

- Performing Arts Center

HARDIN

- Hardin Middle School

HAVRE

- Havre High School

HELENA

- Grand Street Theatre School

JORDAN

- Garfield County High School

KALISPELL

- Flathead Valley Community College

LAMBERT

- Lambert High School

LAME DEER

- Chief Dull Knife Community College

LAUREL

- Laurel High School

LEWISTOWN

- Fergus High School
- Lewistown Junior High School
- Performing Arts Center

LIBBY

- Kootenai Heritage Council
- Libby High School

LIVINGSTON

- Sleeping Giant Middle School

LOLO

- Lower Middle School

MALTA

- Malta High School

MILES CITY

- Miles City High School
- Miles City Public Library

MISSOULA

- Big Sky High School
- Crystal Theatre
- Hellgate High School
- Masquer Theatre
- Sentinel High School
- Willard Alternative School

NASHUA

- Nashua High School

NOXON

- Noxon School

PABLO

- Salish Kootenai Community College

PLAINS

- Plains School

PLENTYWOOD

- Plentywood School

POTOMAC

- Greenough Community Center
- Potomac Middle School

POWER

- Power High School

RED LODGE

- Roman Theatre

ROSEBUD

- Rosebud School

SCOBEE

- Scobey High School

SEELEY LAKE

- Seeley Lake School

SHERIDAN

- Sheridan High School

SIDNEY

- Sidney High School
- Sidney Middle School

SUPERIOR

- Superior High School

TROY

- Northwest Music Hot Club
- Troy High School

VICTOR

- Victor School

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS

- WSS Elementary School

WHITEFISH

- Whitefish High School
- Whitefish Library

WHITEHALL

- Whitehall Middle School

WIBAUX

- Wibaux High School

■ VENUES IN COMMUNITIES WITH POPULATIONS BELOW 3,000

■ ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS

■ TRIBAL SCHOOLS

On the Road: Rave Reviews from Audiences

ANTIGONE: 2026

Just have to tell you how **GREAT** *Antigone: 2026* was! It's unbelievable that such excellent actors are willing to come to our small towns. The whole production was flawless, and our audience left touched and speechless. I am so privileged to be able to collaborate with the Montana Rep.

JEAN MORRISON, presenter
Plains, Montana

We appreciate classic theatre presented in a teen-friendly way. The students were entranced, and the show was very well received.

SONJA WOODS, teacher
Miles City, Montana

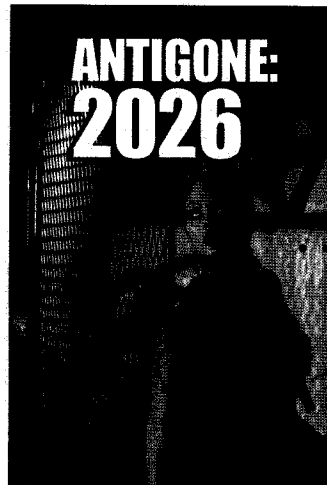
MY CHILDREN! MY AFRICA!

I have enjoyed attending such shows as *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Death of a Salesman*, and *My Children! My Africa!* Each has further influenced my decision to major in theatre. I attend the Montana State Thespians Festival every year and have worked with many members of the Rep. I hope to one day be a part of the Rep crew and take part in these excellent shows.

DON BAUER, student
Butte, Montana

I saw your performance of *My Children! My Africa!* and was absolutely blown away. What a fantastic script, what a marvelous production, what powerful acting! Rebecca Wilson as Isabel Dyson had me sobbing. Thanks so much for bringing this wonderful experience to our community.

SANDRA MICKEN, student
Dillon, Montana



2006 | *Antigone: 2026*



2005 | *The Hemingway Project: It Just Catches*



2004 | *The Beat Generation*



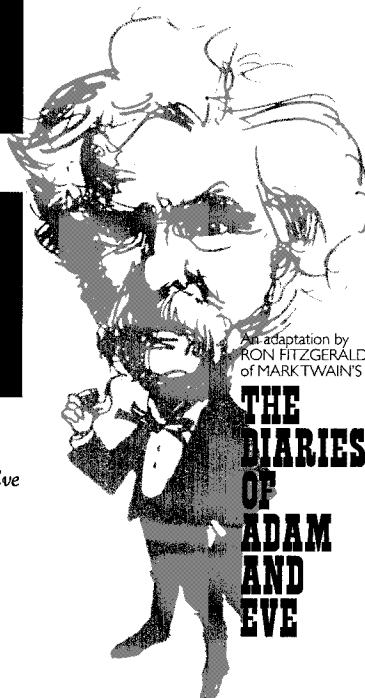
2003 | *My Children! My Africa!*

2002 | *The Diaries of Adam and Eve*

MONTANA REP EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

Following daytime performances, Rep actors present acting and writing workshops to groups of up to 35 students.

Activities based on the play's themes and issues give students the opportunity to make a deeper connection between the play and their own lives.



An adaptation by
RON FITZGERALD
of MARK TWAIN'S

THE
DIARIES
OF
ADAM
AND
EVE

LOST IN YONKERS

My husband and I feel compelled to write after having seen *Lost in Yonkers* at the Vilar Centre in Beaver Creek last night.

We regard ourselves as theatre fans and have seen hundreds of shows all over the world. Your company's performance last night was nothing short of incredible. Every character was completely brilliant—each and every one gave an Oscar-winning performance. We were spellbound.

The only disappointing thing was that the cast was only given one curtain call; they deserved many more.

Thanks for a wonderful evening.

BRIAN and CLARE McGOWAN
Avon, Colorado



2007 | *Lost in Yonkers*

2006 | *The Trip to Bountiful*

2005 | *Steel Magnolias*

2004 | *A Streetcar Named Desire*

2003 | *The Miracle Worker*

The University of Montana

PROFESSIONAL THEATRE-IN-RESIDENCE
SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS

MONTANA REP is funded in part by a grant from the Montana Arts Council (an agency of state government) and the National Endowment for the Arts, with support from the Montana State Legislature, The University of Montana, and the Montana Cultural Trust.

